GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1522
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Bear Conservation
Mohan Shri P. C.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is having any proposal to bear the medical expenses of injured human beings attacked by the bears in the human habitation area and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether there is any proposal for National Bear Conservation and welfare action plan like Project Tiger and Project Elephant;
(c) if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance provided to safeguard the bear population which is dwindling day by day; and
(d) the steps taken by the Government to check retaliatory killings and illegal trade in various kinds of bears in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) There is no specific proposal to bear the medical expanses of injured human beings attacked by the bears in the human habitation area. However, the state governments provide ex-gratia relief to victims of depredations/attacks by wild animals including bear for loss of human lives/injury loss of property. Central assistance to the states under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes includes assistance for payment of ex-gratia relief for payment to the victims of predation/depredation by wild animals as below:

Sl. No. Nature of damage caused by wild animals Amount of ex-gratia relief
(a) Death or permanent incapacitation Rs. 2,00,000/-
(b) Grievous injury 30% of (a)
(c) Minor injury Cost of treatment
(d) Loss of property Value of loss/damage as assessed by authorized officer.

(b) There is no proposal for National Bear Conservation and welfare action plan like Project Tiger and Project Elephant under consideration of the Ministry.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The Government has taken following steps to check retaliatory killing and illegal trade of various kinds of bears in the country:
1. State Governments provide ex-gratia relief to victims in respect of damage to crops and loss of human lives from their own funds as well from the assistance provided by Central Government.
2. In forest and wildlife management, involvement of people living near the forests is ensured by the strategies of organizing Joint Forest Management Committees and village Eco-development Committees.
3. The Central Government provides assistance to the States/Union Territories under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes like 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Elephant' and 'Project Tiger' for providing better protection to wildlife and improvement of its habitat.
4. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
5. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been enacted to provide protection to wildlife including bears. The Act prohibits killing, poisoning, capturing, coursing, snaring, trapping, injuring or destroying or taking any part of the body parts of wild animals and also regulates trade or commerce in wildlife. The Himalayan Brown Bear, Sloth Bear, Himalayan black bear as well as Malayan sun bear have been listed under Schedule I of the Act granting them the highest protection.
6. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to strengthen the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

****